

Scapulars

An evolution of a part of the Monastic Habit, scapulars as used as sacramentals by the general lay public consist of two squares or rectangles of fabric (usually must be wool, representing Jesus as the lamb of God) worn on straps over the shoulders so one piece falls in front and one in back. There are about a score of such scapulars of different colors, designs, and devotional associations. Some were given in apparitions from heaven, others simply started as a way to have a share in the graces and merits of a certain Religious Order, or to honor a specific Saint or religious mystery.

Although often originally given only to members of Third Orders, as some (such as the Third Order scapulars of St. Francis and St. Norbert) are still reserved for today, many scapulars eventually became available as devotion to the general lay public by enrollment in a Confraternity attached to them by a priest of that organization to share in the graces of that Order or organization. As Confraternities were dissolved as the hierarchy evolved and was simplified and restructured, faculties were given to any priest to invest/enroll people in the various scapulars (besides the remaining Third Order scapulars). Scapulars are also allowed which are not specifically approved or enriched with special graces but are instead simply worn as a private devotion to some Saint or religious mystery.

A priest invests/enrolls one in the scapular once and then the investiture of the person passes on to all subsequent scapulars of that type without needing to have them re-blessed or the ceremony performed again. Kissing a scapular while wearing it or before putting it on is a pious practice. A scapular represents the yoke of Christ.

Pope St. Pius X approved the wearing of a medal in place of one or many scapulars. One must be invested originally in the cloth scapular, however, and the medal must be blessed simply with the sign of the cross once for each scapular one is enrolled in. The medal must have on the front an image of Jesus pointing at his Sacred Heart. On the back it must have some image of the Virgin Mary, often this is an image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the Infant Jesus, both holding scapulars. The actual wool scapular is, however, preferred.

Red Scapular of the Passion

This scapular owes its origin to an apparition of Jesus to Sister Apolline Andriveau, a Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, in 1846. The devotion was approved by the Pope and associated with the Lazarists. It is made of red wool and must have a red woolen cord. There is a special image of the Instruments of the Passion on the front, and of the Sacred Hearts on the back. It is worn to encourage meditation on the Passion and to implore the protection of the Sacred

Hearts of Jesus and Mary. It is to be a silent, constant prayer in cloth. One is promised to receive special graces of faith, hope and charity on Fridays.

Black Scapular of the Seven Sorrows of Mary

A black scapular associated with the Servite Order, founded by seven citizens of Florence who received a vision from Mary. No image is necessary, though often there is one representing Mary's sorrows or dolors. Wear the scapular to invoke the protection of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, and with special devotion to Mary's Seven Dolours.

Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Made of brown wool, this is the most famous and celebrated scapular. It was given by the Virgin Mary in an apparition to St. Simon Stock of the Carmelite Order in England. She promised that to those who garbed themselves in this scapular associated with the Carmelites would gain great graces and protections, and those who died wearing it were promised the graces to not suffer Eternal Fire. She also promised it that those that met certain conditions would gain the Sabbatine Privilege; special help from her to be released from Purgatory the Saturday after death. In later apparitions all throughout history she has emphasized this Brown Scapular as second only to the Rosary as the greatest devotions to her.

To gain all the great graces, protections, and privileges attached to this scapular there are three things you must do. First, wear the Brown Scapular constantly, even when sleeping, though one of course may remove it in water or for short times. Secondly, one must especially observe chastity according to your state in life. Finally, one must recite daily the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin or the Divine Office daily. Or, if you cannot read, you must observe the fasts and abstinences of the Church together with abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Or, whether you are illiterate or not, with the permission of a Priest you may instead say five decades of Our Lady's Most Holy Rosary or substitute some other such good work or prayer (but no less than seven Glory Be's, seven Hail Mary's, and seven Our Father's).

Blue Scapular of the Immaculate Conception

A blue wool scapular given to the founder of the Theatine Nuns, Ven. Ursula Benincasa, in an apparition from Jesus. It was approved by the Popes and is richly endowed with graces for the wearer. No image is necessary but it often has some representation of the Name of Mary and symbolization of the Immaculate Conception. Special graces obtained through wearing devoutly. It honors the Immaculate Conception especially for the conversion of sinners. Traditional practices call for saying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be six times each day honoring the Trinity and the Immaculate Conception

as well as the presentation of an Immaculate Conception chaplet at the time of investiture to be said at times out of further devotion to the Immaculate Conception. One should wear the Scapular in the spirit of showing special devotion towards Mary and the Mystery of the Immaculate Conception. The wearer should also receive the Sacraments frequently, particularly on feasts and solemnities of the Virgin Mary. They should pray for the sick and dying, the conversion of sinners, God's mercy for the world, and for the souls suffering in Purgatory, especially those deceased who were invested in the Scapular and who had special devotion to the Immaculate Conception. Like many scapulars, observe chastity according to one's state in life.

White Scapular of the Most Blessed Trinity

One of the oldest scapulars, it is based on the habit of the Trinitarian Order, as given to Pope Innocent III in a vision he received after sanctioning the Order. Made of white or off-white wool, this scapular has a Cross with horizontal bar blue and vertical bar red on it. Wear the Scapular with special devotion to the Holy Trinity.

Five-fold Scapular

Several scapulars may be attached to the same pair of strings or bands; each scapular must of course be complete, and must be attached to both bands. In many cases the five best-known of the early scapulars are attached to the same pair of bands; this combination is then known as the "fivefold scapular". The five are: the Scapular of the Most Blessed Trinity, that of the Carmelites, of the Servites, of the Immaculate Conception, and the Red Scapular of the Passion. When the scapulars are thus joined together, the bands must be of red wool, as required by the Red Scapular; it is customary to wear the Red Scapular uppermost and that of the Most Blessed Trinity undermost, so that the images specially prescribed in the case of the Red, and the small red and blue cross on the Scapular of the Blessed Trinity, may be visible.

The Violet, Gold, and White Scapular of St. Joseph

The two segments of woollen cloth are of a violet color; to these are sewed two pieces of gold-colored cloth of equal size. The bands are white. On the gold-colored segment before the breast is the representation of St. Joseph with the Child Jesus on his right arm and the staff of lilies in his left hand, while underneath is the inscription: Sancte Ioseph, Protector Ecclesia, ora pro nobis (St. Joseph, patron of the Church, pray for us.) On the other gold-colored segment is represented the papal tiara, and above it the dove as the symbol of the Holy Ghost, and underneath it a cross and the keys of Peter with the inscription: "Spiritus Domini ductor eius" (The Spirit of the Lord is

his Guide.) To obtain special graces through the scapular when receiving the Eucharist it is customary to say 5 Glory Be's, 5 Hail Mary's, and 5 Our Father's. This scapular gives us the help we need in our daily struggles by reminding us of Saint Joseph's virtues: The color yellow signifies the justice and holiness of Saint Joseph; the violet his modesty and humility and the white his purity. We must invoke him as Protector of the Universal Church so that he can strengthen and protect it. He is also of great assistance to the faithful during their last agony since Saint Joseph is the Patron of a Holy death.

Black Scapular of the Passion

A scapular of black cloth associated with the Passionists. It is related in the life of St. Paul of the Cross that before founding the Congregation of the Passionists he received in apparitions the black habit of the order with the badge on the breast. Later, after the foundation of the congregation, the Passionist Fathers gave the faithful who wished to associate themselves more closely with their order a black scapular in honor of the Passion of Christ. This bears an exact replica of the badge of the Passionists, namely a heart above a cross, on which is written "Jesu XPI Passio" and below "sit semper in cordibus nostris". The other portion of the scapular hanging at the back needs no image, but often there is a representation of the Passion of Christ. This is worn for association with the Passionists, and for devotion to and graces from the Passion of Christ.

Red Scapular of the Most Precious Blood

Scapular of red cloth, with some representation of the Precious Blood. It has either a picture of the Crucifixion or of angels adoring a chalice of Christ's Precious Blood. Used for special devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

White Scapular of Our Lady of Ransom

Made of white cloth, it has an image of the Shield of Aragon on the front, and some have an image of Our Lady of Ransom on the other side. St. Peter Nolasco founded the Mercedarians with the help of King James of Aragon, and the shield is still used on the real habit of the Order today. Originally meant to support the work of ransoming Christians physically captive by heathens, it took on the meaning of ransoming people who are spiritually captive by sin and the devil. It should be worn with devotion to Reconciliation and Penance.

White Scapular of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

This scapular consists of two segments of white woolen cloth connected in the usual manner by two strings. One segment bears the usual representation of the Sacred Heart, while the other bears that

of the Virgin Mary under the title of Mother of Mercy. It is worn for further graces from, and expression of devotion to, the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Black Scapular of St. Benedict

To associate the faithful, who are not Oblates of St. Benedict, in a certain measure with the Benedictine Order, this black scapular was created. One or both of the segments usually has a picture, often of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica, but no picture is necessary. Wear it with special devotion to these Saints and pray for their intercession to gain graces, especially on Tuesdays by attending Mass and receiving holy communion if possible, and by praying the Divine Office or at least seven Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Bes at the times of the canonical hours.

The Blue and Black Shield Scapular of St. Michael

In outward form this scapular is different from the others, inasmuch as the two segments of cloth have the form of a small shield; of these one is made of blue and the other of black cloth, and of the bands likewise one is blue and the other black. Both portions of the scapular bear the well-known representation of the Archangel Michael slaying the dragon and the inscription "Quis ut Deus" (Who is like unto God.) Wear with special devotion to St. Michael and the nine choirs of angelic hosts, and the intention of the defeat of Satan and his demonic hordes.

White Scapular of Our Lady of Good Counsel

The two segments of cloth must be of white wool. Though the bands are usually also white, this is not essential. The segment of cloth which hangs before the breast bears the image of the Mother of Good Counsel, after the well-known picture in the Augustinian church at Genazzano, with the inscription: "Mother of Good Counsel". On the other segment the papal arms (i.e., the tiara and the keys of Peter) with the inscription: "Son, follow her counsel." by Leo XIII.

White Scapular of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The scapular is of white woolen cloth. On the portion which hangs before the breast is represented the burning Heart of Mary, out of which grows a lily; the heart is encircled by a wreath of roses and pierced with a sword. Worn for further graces from, and expression of devotion to, Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Black Scapular of Our Lady Health of the Sick

This scapular is for the blessings of healing, the intention of interceding for the sick, association with the Camillians, and graces of Our Lady under the title of "Health of the Sick" or "Help of the Sick". In the Church of St. Magdalen at Rome, belonging to the Clerks

Regular of St. Camillus, a picture of the Blessed Virgin is specially venerated under the title of Help of the Sick. This picture is said to have been painted by the celebrated Dominican painter, Fra Angelico da Fiesole and before it Pope St. Pius V is said to have prayed for the victory of the Christian fleet during the battle of Lepanto. This picture suggested to a brother of the Order of St. Camillus, Ferdinand Vicari, the idea of founding a confraternity under the invocation of the Mother of God for the poor sick. He succeeded in his plan and this scapular was approved by Pius IX and Leo XIII. One may still wear this scapular of black woolen cloth; the portion over the breast is a copy of the above picture of the Mother of God and at her feet Sts. Joseph and Camillus, the two other patrons of the sick and of the Camillians. On the small segment at the back is sewed a little red cloth cross; although this receives separate and special blessing for the sick, it does not constitute an essential portion of the scapular.

White Scapular of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts

This scapular is for devotion to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts and to the Passion of Christ. It is very similar to the Red Scapular of the Passion. The two segments of cloth are of white wool, one bears the image of the Heart of Jesus with the well-known emblems and also the Heart of Mary pierced with a sword, underneath being the implements of the Passion; the other segment has a small cross of red material. The scapular owes its origin and spread to the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. It was approved by Pope St. Pius X.

Old White Scapular of the Holy Face

This scapular is similar in intent to the new scapular of the Holy Face. That one was given in a vision, however, and this one is simply for devotion. It was already around in 1917, when the classic Catholic Encyclopedia was published. It bears on a piece of white cloth the well-known picture connected with St. Veronica and the Veronica's Veil. This scapular is worn by those wishing to express devotion to the Holy Face. One can, however, wear the picture on a medal or cross, in place of the scapular. The wearing of this sacramental is simply one of the many pious practices approved by the Church.

New White Scapular of the Holy Face

Made of white cloth, this scapular has an image of the Holy Face from the Shroud of Turin on the front and the inscription: "Illumina, Domine, vultum tuum super nos". (Ps. 66-1 "May, O Lord, the light of Thy countenance shine upon us".) On the reverse side was a radiant host with the words: 'Mane nobiscum, Domine'. ("Stay with us, O Lord".) Its design was given to a visionary of the Holy Face, Maria Pierina, by Jesus in 1938. This scapular is worn as part of devotion to

the Holy Face, and a medal of the same design is more usually worn. Many favors and protections have been granted through this devotion. The scapular or medal is a weapon for defense, a shield for courage, a token of love & mercy and which Mary said her Divine Son wished to give the world in these troubled days of lust and hatred for God and for His Church.

Whoever wears this medal and, if possible, pays a weekly visit to the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday in a spirit of reparation for the outrages received by the Holy Face of Our Blessed Savior during His Passion and those bestowed on Him every day in the Sacrament of His divine love, will be granted the gift of a strong Faith and the grace to fly to its defense conquering if need be all interior and exterior difficulties. Moreover, they are promised a happy death with special assistance of Christ Himself. The whole world has gotten acquainted with this special object of favors and devotion. It is to be found on land and sea bringing great blessings to those who wear it with devotion. Our Lord requested that a special feast be instituted to honor His Holy Face on Shrove Tuesday, and making Mass that day is a great way to honor His Holy Face. Devotion to Christ's humanity in the Holy Face compliments the Devotion to His Sacred Heart.

Green Scapular of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

This scapular is somewhat different than the others. Made of green cloth, this scapular was given to a Daughter of Charity called Sister Justine in an apparition from Mary. It is only one square, not two like usual, and has a special image of Mary on the front and of the Immaculate Heart on the back. It is used to help invoke Mary's aid in cures and conversions. Personally, one may wear or simply carry the scapular. To help or convert another, one may place it secretly in their room or vicinity, or give it to them directly. One must pray, at least daily: *"Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death"*. The prayer should be said for oneself and separately for each person to whom it has been given, unless they pray themselves. No enrollment of any kind is necessary, but each scapular should be blessed by a priest with the general blessing of sacramentals. Have confidence in the effects of this scapular, Mary said the greatest graces come from using the scapular but these graces come in direct proportion to the degree of confidence in me which the user has.